

Financial Incentives for Rice Cultivation

(REDUCING METHANE EMISSIONS THROUGH DRY SEEDING AND STRAW BALING)

How Am I Compensated?

- ◆ Farmers can produce carbon offset credits by following a protocol approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- ◆ Carbon offset credits accrued by following the protocol can be sold on the carbon market
- ◆ Carbon offset credits may be allowed for up to 20 years.
- ◆ Farmers can also sell the baled rice straw.



Image: Calrose Co-op

How Are My Land and the Environment Improved?

- ◆ Reduced strain on water sources
- ◆ Reduced methane emissions
- ◆ Reduced GHG emissions
- ◆ Waterfowl habitat is conserved

Butte County's agricultural lands are rich with high-quality soils and are located in one of the best agricultural areas in the world. Agriculture plays a large role in the County's economy. The SALC Strategy is intended to conserve agricultural land while sequestering carbon, reducing GHG emissions, conserving water, and recharging groundwater.

What is This "Rice Cultivation" Protocol?

- ◆ This protocol pays farmers to dry seed and bale their rice straw after harvest.
- ◆ The Air Resources Board's Compliance Offset Program provides financial incentives for sustainable practices; specifically, practices that reduce GHG emissions or sequester carbon.
- ◆ A carbon offset protocol must be adopted by CARB to be eligible for offset credits.
- ◆ Farming activities must meet specific requirements to be eligible for offset credits. When they are met the offset credits can be sold on the carbon market for profit.

What Farming Practices Are Involved?

- ◆ **Dry Seeding:** Sow seeds by drilling or broadcasting onto dry or moist soil, delaying the start of the flooding process. A shorter flooding period means lower methane emissions.
- ◆ **Post-Harvest Straw Baling:** Instead of incorporating rice straw into the soil, it is collected and baled. The baled straw can be used for other purposes, such as erosion control, animal bedding, or biochar.

Dry seeding and straw baling may not be appropriate for all agricultural operations. Interested land owners and managers are encouraged to evaluate the practices described in this brochure to determine whether they are feasible and appropriate for their property.



BUTTE COUNTY

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy



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What Lands and Farming Practices are Eligible?

- ◆ Rice fields that were previously flooded for seeding
- ◆ Fields where nitrification/urea inhibitors and controlled release fertilizers are used are not eligible
- ◆ A complete cultivation and harvest cycle must occur during the project period
- ◆ Must demonstrate that previous rice cultivation resulted in anaerobic conditions
- ◆ Soil must have a carbon content is less than or equal to 3% in the top 10 cm.
 - ◇ See the SALC Mapper to view potentially eligible lands in Butte County
<http://gis.buttecounty.net/Public/index.html?viewer=SALC>
 - ◇ Laboratory tests are recommended to confirm
- ◆ For more information on this protocol visit
<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/rice-cultivation/>
- ◆ To set up an account with the registry and get started visit
<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/>

Butte County Department of Development Services

SALC Strategy

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Phone: (530) 538-7601

<https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/home.aspx>

For More Information...

- ◆ **Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy:** Learn more <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx>
- ◆ **SALC Mapper:** See if your property may be eligible for this protocol
<http://gis.buttecounty.net/Public/index.html?viewer=SALC>
- ◆ **California Air Resources Board:** Learn more about the Compliance Offset Program <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/offsets/offsets.htm>
- ◆ **Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area (WMA) :** Learn about our local wildlife management area for waterfowl. Butte Sink WMA is not open to the public. https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Butte_Sink/



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